(c) The candidates are nominated for training as per seniority. However, SC/ST candidates are nominated for training even though they are not senior enough for training.

Violation of IATA Code of Conduct

2281. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Airways had authorised its travel agents to issue tickets for Rs. 18,000 to anywhere in Europe and Rs. 29,000 to any destination in the world under a package valid till 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this had stunned the Air India and other international airways, sending them into a huddle to meet the challenge; and

(c) whether this scheme was in violation to the IATA Code of Conduct; if so, in what respect and what steps were taken by Air India to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The package offered by the British Airways was brought to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation by Air India. Since this was in violation of the existing norms of approval of international tariffs, British Airways was directed to withdraw the same. This direction was complied with.

Development of Bhopal Airport

2282. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to modernise the airport infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in equipping the airports situated in Madhya Pradesh with modern technology; and

(d) the progress made in development of Bhopal airport for the operations of Airbus 320 class of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Development and modernisation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic requirements, availability of funds, availability of land etc. and the works are undertaken in a phased manner.

(c) Modern equipments such as Doppler Very High frequency Omni Range (DVOR), Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) have been installed at Jabalpur Airport.

(d) There is a proposal to extend the length of the runway to 7500 feet at Bhopal airport to enable operation of AB-320 type of aircraft for which State Government has been approached for necessary land.

SC/ST and OBC candidates selected in the Ministry of Civil Aviation

2283. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated the 2nd July, 1997 persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SC, ST and OBC selected/ recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the reserved quota of vacancies/posts for their communities during the last three years under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 195 SC, 52 ST and 93 OBC candidates have been selected/ recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the reserved quota of vacancies/posts for their communities during the last three years in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its various organisations.

Offloading of passengers due to overbooking by AI

2284. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :